

MICHAEL T. McCAUL

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AND TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT

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November 9, 2009

The Honorable Jane Harman
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorist Assessment
House Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Harman,

It is important to the United States' national security and the security within our own military forces that we gain a full understanding of what motivated Nidal Malik Hasan to go on a deadly shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas November 5, 2009. While it has been documented that Mr. Hasan suffered from emotional distress that may have contributed to his actions, reports of his religious and political beliefs, and actions he is said to have taken leading up to the shootings, bring to question whether Mr. Hasan was motivated by outside influences including terrorist organizations.

In light of the information we have learned from various sources including press reports that Mr. Hasan may have ties to terrorist groups, I am requesting that the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorist Assessment launch an investigation into whom Mr. Hasan associated with prior to the events of November 5, who knew about his associations and what, if anything, could have been done to prevent such a tragedy.

Among the questions our investigation should attempt to answer:

- Who did Mr. Hasan have contact with in the months prior to the events at Fort Hood?
- Was Mr. Hasan responsible for a blog post praising suicide bombers that federal law enforcement is said to have been aware of at least six months prior to the shootings?
- Was the United States Army aware of any affiliations Mr. Hasan has to terrorist organizations such as al Qaeda?

- Why didn't the United States Army take personnel action against Mr. Hasan upon learning of his opposition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?
- Why was Mr. Hasan promoted despite his poor evaluation at Walter Reed and was his background examined thoroughly upon his promotion?

In addition, our subcommittee should investigate the information gathered and distributed by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence in the immediate aftermath of the incident. Further, we need to explore DHS's coordination with the Department of Defense with respect to the security of U.S. military installations. It is important to note that, as in the case of Fort Dix, al Qaeda has targeted U.S. military installations in the past and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Michael T. McCaul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "McCaul" being more prominent than the middle initial "T.".

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Cc: The Honorable Peter King